

FROM: Sarah Gillooly
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DATE: Feb 16, 2026

TO: Chair, House Judiciary Committee, MD House of Delegates

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 0630 - Correctional Services Immigration Detention Facilities - Original Design and Construction

Dear Chair and members of the Maryland House Judiciary Committee,

As a constituent and devout Quaker, I urge you to pass House Bill 630.

For 20 years of my career, I worked for healthcare providers who provide abortion care - helping them navigate the complex web of medically unnecessary regulations imposed by local, state, and federal governments. Now, the federal government wishes to turn around and house humans - including children - in substandard warehouses designed for storing boxes and equipment. These facilities threaten the health, life, and safety of tens of thousands of living, breathing human beings. The hypocrisy is not lost, and I am urging you to support HB630 as the minimum corrective measure.

The bill requires that detention facilities operate only in buildings specifically constructed for that purpose. Regardless of the federal agency or the procurement vehicle used, Maryland must maintain standards for what operates within its borders. HB 630 ensures that any facility — federal or private — meets basic human habitation standards.

Do justice - now. Practice mercy - now. Walk humbly in your job to care for human life - today. Pass HB630 and protect the basic health and dignity of immigrants in detention.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Gillooly, M.A., M.Div.